

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 were previously pending in the application. Applicants believe the claims are allowable in their current form and have not amended the claims in this Response to Office action. A listing of the claims has been provided as a reference. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 19 and 20 and indication that Claims 5-10 and 14-17 include allowable subject matter. Applicants note that Claim 20 was not addressed in the body of the Office action dated January 11, 2005. However, the Summary on page 1 lists both Claims 19 and 20 as being allowed. Therefore, Applicants regard Claim 20 as being allowed.

Claims 1-4, 12, 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Müller (US 4,270,281).

Independent Claim 1 recites a method for drying items of clothing, which comprises: providing an item of clothing; providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas; moving said at least one gas nozzle and the clothing item relative to one another; and impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Müller discloses a combined drum washer and drying arrangement having a rotating drum (14). Circulating air nozzles (31) discharge circulating air adjacent the heating element (13) to form an air curtain between the heating element (13) and the rotating drum (14). The air curtain provides a barrier between the heating element (13) and the outer surface of the rotating drum (14) to avoid overheating.

Müller does not disclose, among other things, impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, Müller discloses the air nozzles (31) that generate circulating air for circulating the heated air from the heating element (13). The two-stage suction-pressure turbine (27) generates the air flow through the nozzles (31) and also draws air back from the drain opening (15) and circulating air conduit (26) to create an air flow through the drum (14).

In Müller, the rotating drum (14) is positioned between the nozzles (31) and the clothing. Therefore, the nozzles (31) cannot impact the clothing. As stated in Müller at column 4, lines 10-16:

When flowing out through the circulating-air nozzles 31, the circulating-air undergoes an unimportant decrease in pressure so that when it strikes the outer surface of the washing-drum 14 a slight cooling effect results and overheating of the washing drum is prevented even when the washing is already dry.

The air from the nozzles (31) strikes the outer surface of the washing-drum. Müller does not disclose impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item. In addition, the nozzles (31) of Müller are positioned above the rotating drum (14) and the clothing will be positioned near the bottom of the rotating drum (14) due to gravity. This positioning places the nozzles (31) and clothing even further away from one another and teaches away from impacting the jet of gas on the clothing. Therefore, Müller does not disclose all the elements recited in Claim 1.

For these and other reasons, Müller, does not anticipate the subject matter defined by independent Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-10 and 12-17 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

Independent Claim 18 recites a method for drying items of clothing, which comprises: providing an item of clothing; providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas; moving said at least one gas nozzle and the clothing item relative to one another; and impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle different from zero to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Müller does not disclose, among other things, impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle different from zero to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item, as recited in Claim 18. The limitation of “impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of

the clothing item” was described above in detail in relation to Claim 1. Claim 18 is similar to Claim 1, but differs in the description of the direction in which the jet of gas impacts the clothing item. Therefore, the remarks above regarding Müller and the limitation of “impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the clothing item” also apply to Claim 18. Müller does not disclose “impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the clothing item.”

For these and other reasons, Müller, does not anticipate the subject matter defined by independent Claim 18. Therefore, Claim 18 is allowable.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above, allowance of Claims 1-10 and 12-20 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this communication, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. Please note that Applicants have changed representation and are now represented by new counsel. The formal Revocation of Power of Attorney / New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address documents will be forthcoming.

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Name of Attorney Signing under 37 CFR 1.34

Respectfully submitted,



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